

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 ACDA-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DLOS-06 OES-06
SAL-01 /105 W

-----212306Z 030054 /63

R 212140Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6781
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS, SHUM
SUBJECT: LOPEZ MICHELSEN VISIT TO COSTA RICA

REF: (A) SAN JOSE 1119, (B) SAN JOSE 1136

1. SUMMARY: COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSEN ENDED

CORDIAL AND RELAXED, THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO
COSTA RICA MARCH 19. AS EXPECTED HE AND PRESIDENT ODUBER
SIGNED A MARITIME BOUNDARY AGREEMENT. HUMAN RIGHTS RE-
CEIVED THE MOST ATTENTION FROM THE TWO PRESIDENTS.
LOPEZ ANNOUNCED HIS SUPPORT FOR COSTA RICA'S PROPOSAL
THAT A UN HIGH COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS BE ESTABLISHED.
BOTH REACTED FAVORABLY TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S REMARKS ON
HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE UN MARCH 17. LOPEZ DID, HOWEVER,
OPPOSE UNILATERAL U.S. ACTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. END
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SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN AND A 17-MEMBER
ENTOURAGE (PLUS WIVES) PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO
COSTA RICA MARCH 16-19. LOPEZ WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS
MINISTER OF DEFENSE, THE NAVAL COMMANDER, THE MINISTER
OF AGRICULTURE, THE AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S., FOREIGN

MINISTRY OFFICIALS, SENATORS, DEPUTIES PERSONAL AIDES, AND FAMILY MEMBERS.

3. THE CENTERPIECE OF THE LOPEZ VISIT TO COSTA RICA, THE FIRST EVER FOR A COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT, WAS THE SIGNING OF A TREATY OF SEA AND SEABED BOUNDARIES AND MARITIME COOPERATION. HUMAN RIGHTS, DEFENSE OF JUST PRICES FOR COMMODITY EXPORTS, AND COOPERATION IN COMBATTING COFFEE RUST WERE OTHER AREAS OF AGREEMENT MENTIONED IN THE JOINT TRIP COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON MARCH 19 (COPIES OF TREATY AND COMMUNIQUE BEING POUCHED).

4. THE LOPEZ VISIT WAS RELAXED; THE PACE OF ACTIVITIES SQUARED WITH THE MEASURED DEMEANOR OF THE GUEST OF HONOR. TWO OFFICIAL DINNERS, PRIVATE MEETINGS BETWEEN PRESIDENTS, SIGHTSEEING, AN EVENING FOR LOPEZ WITH THE COLOMBIAN COMMUNITY, AND TWO SHORT PRESS CONFERENCES FILL OUT THE PROGRAM.

5. FOR COSTA RICA THE LOPEZ VISIT WAS BUILT AROUND THE SIGNING OF A SEA BOUNDARIES AND MARITIME AGREEMENT IN WHICH THE TWO COUNTRIES DELINEATED A SEA AND SEABED BOUNDARY AND WHICH RESULTED IN AN EXCHANGE OF JURISDICTION OVER HERETOFORE CONTESTED TRIANGLES OF SEA IN THE CARIBBEAN. THE AGREEMENT WAS CITED BY FORMIN FACIO AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TWO COUNTRIES WITH SUCH DIFFERENCES COULD REASONABLY RESOLVE THEM IN THE ERA OF 200-MILE PATRIMONIAL SEAS. THE TREATY ALSO CALLS FOR CONSERVATION MEASURES IN AREAS UNDER EACH

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COUNTRY'S JURISDICTION, INCLUDING JOINT EFFORTS, AND PLEDGES COOPERATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS ALONG SUCH LINES.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS PROVED TO BE THE MOST NEWSWORTHY SUBSTANTIVE SUBJECT OF THE VISIT; ALMOST HALF OF THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE DEALT WITH IT. THE TWO COUNTRIES:

--AGREED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO CONTINUE HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORTS WORLDWIDE.

--EXPRESSED THAT SUCH AN ATTITUDE IS THE LOGICAL CONSEQUENCE OF THE LIBERTIES TRADITIONALLY MAINTAINED BY BOTH COUNTRIES.

--CALLED FOR AGREEMENTS THAT PUT TEETH INTO AND MAKE OBLIGATORY THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

-- RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF COSTA RICA'S
PROPOSAL TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THE DEFENSE
OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH THE CREATION OF
A HIGH COMMISSIONER IN THE UN.

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7. HUMAN RIGHTS WAS A PROMINENT THEME IN ODUBER'S
MARCH 16 SPEECH (REFTEL A). LOPEZ ADDRESSED IT AND
THE U.S. POSITION THEREIN IN HIS MARCH 18 PRESS CON-
FERENCE. GIST OF HIS REMARKS (LOCAL PRESS DISAGREE
ON EXACT TEXT) IS THAT:
WKZRKATLOMBIA#(IN LIGHT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S
MARCH 17 SPEECH AT UN) IS GLAD THE UNITED STATES
IS CEASING TO BE THE WORLD'S GUARDIAN OF HUMAN
RIGHTS IN ORDER THAT A HIGH UNITED NATIONS
ENTITY HAVE THAT RESPONSIBILITY.

-- UNILATERAL ACTIONS BY ONE NATION TO IMPOSE METHODS
OF BEHAVIOR ON ANOTHER THROUGH ECONOMIC PRESSURE OR
MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLES
OF INTERAMERICAN LAW.

--IN THE UN THE ISSUE CEASES TO BE THE INTERVENTION

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OF ONE STATE IN THE AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER, BUT RATHER
THE INTERVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN
DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

8. UNSURPRISINGLY, THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE ALSO CONTAINED
A STRONG STATEMENT IN DEFENSE OF REMUNERATIVE PRICES
FOR RAW MATERIALS IN THE UNDERDEVELOPED WORLD, A THEME
ALSO EXPLORED BY ODUBER IN HIS MARCH 16 SPEECH
(REFTEL B), AND LOPEZ IN HIS RESPONSES TO PRESS
QUESTIONS. LOPEZ POSITION AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS CONTAINED
SOME POINTED LANGUAGE RE THE U.S. AND THE COFFEE
BOYCOTT IN THIS REGARD (SEPTTEL).

9. COMMENT: IT WAS A WARM AND CORDIAL VISIT BETWEEN
TWO FRIENDS. COLOMBIA OBTAINED WHAT IT WANTED THE
MOST--A SEA AND SEABED AGREEMENT. COSTA RICA'S
GAIN IS LESS TANGIBLE BUT NEVERTHELESS IMPORTANT--A
PAT ON THE BACK FOR ITS DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM BY A BIGGER
SISTER DEMOCRACY, AND QUICK COLOMBIAN SUPPORT FOR
COSTA RICA IN ITS UN HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT. (COLOMBIA
WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE DONE SO ANYWAY, BUT THE EFFORT
OF DOING IT HERE HAS BEEN GOOD.) BOTH WANTED TO SAY
SOMETHING ON COMMODITIES TO THE U.S., AND DID. ALSO,
IN THE SEA/SEABED BOUNDARY RESOLUTION, COSTA RICA MAY
HAVE SOME PRECEDENTS TO APPLY TO ITS MARITIME PROBLEMS
WITH NICARAGUA. FINALLY THE LOPEZ STATE VISIT TO COSTA RICA
GAVE BOTH PRESIDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO STATE CLEARLY THEIR
SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO INVIGORATE AND DEPOLITICIZE THE
UNHRC.
KILDAY

NOTE: # AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

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